



Frozen Vaccine Storage Requirements **(Varicella & MMRV)**

1. The Arizona Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program strongly recommends the use of a stand-alone freezer for the storage of Varicella and MMRV. However, a standard two door household unit can also be used to store frozen vaccines. **Refrigerator units with a single door and freezer compartment inside of the unit can never be used to store any VFC vaccines. These units are referred to as “Dorm-Style” or “Bar-Style” units.**

Before any VFC vaccines can be ordered, a VFC site visit reviewer must inspect the unit. As a requirement of the program, providers must place a digital, NIST Certified, calibrated thermometer attached to a probe that is inside of a bio-safe glycol filled bottle into the freezer to record temperatures. Temperatures must be recorded twice daily for 5 days to ensure the unit is in compliance with the current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) requirements. This document must be submitted to the VFC Vaccine Center after the 5 days.

2. Once your unit is approved by the VFC Program and temperatures are within the required range, you can place your first order. Scan and email temperature logs to arizonavfc@azdhs.gov or fax to 602-364-3276.
3. Varicella and MMRV vaccines are shipped directly from the manufacturer and take approximately 2-4 weeks to arrive in the providers office.
4. **WHEN YOUR VARICELLA and/or MMRV VACCINE ARRIVES:**
 - Open the shipment box, check shipment for damage, temperature excursions and correctness. Place the vaccine in the approved freezer.
 - Keep diluent at room temperature. **Do not freeze diluent.**
 - Place frozen ice packs under and on top of the boxes of Varicella and MMRV vaccine to protect the vaccine from minor temperature excursions.
 - Keep Varicella and MMRV vaccine vials in their original closed boxes to protect the vaccine from light. **Do not tear off end flaps or cover.**
 - Administer vaccine immediately after mixing with diluent. Discard the vaccine if it is not used within 30 minutes of reconstitution.
 - Check the freezer temperature twice a day and record it on the temperature log in either Fahrenheit or Celsius, along with your initials and the time the temperatures were taken. The temperature should be -58 degrees F (-50 degrees C) to +5 degrees F (-15 degrees C).
 - **Call the Arizona VFC Program at 602-364-3642, as soon as possible if temperatures are outside of the recommended range.**

5. Temperature logs should be submitted to the Vaccine Center monthly whether an order is being placed or not.